



MEMORANDUM OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

TO:

Honorable Members
The Citizen's Independent Transportation
Trust (CITT)

DATE:

May 2, 2003

FROM:

Danny Alvarez
Executive Director
Office of Public Transportation
Management

SUBJECT: Six Month OPTM Report and 90 day
Outlook

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the improvements undertaken by the Office of Public Transportation Management (OPTM) pursuant to the passage of the People's Transportation Plan and the proposed initiatives slated for the first quarter of 2003.

On November 5, 2002, the voters of Miami-Dade County overwhelmingly passed the People's Transportation Plan. The following summarizes the accomplishments subsequent to the election and the proposed goals and objectives scheduled for the next 90 days.

Activities since November 5, 2002:

- Implemented on November 6, 2002 free fares for Metromover and free transit for Miami-Dade citizens age 65 and above;
- Initiated the Little Haiti Connector, the Little Havana Circulator and the Coconut Grove Circulator in November and December of 2002;
- Made improvements to 12 existing Metrobus routes (i.e. longer hours, weekend service, etc.); Implemented the Coral Way MAX, the Hialeah Gardens Connector, and the Sweetwater Connector (*for a total of six new routes*);
- Made seventy service improvements to fifty routes since November 10, 2002. The improvements from the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) to existing routes included more frequent service in the peak and off-peak periods, route extensions, service expansion, and schedule adjustments to improve on-time performance;
- MDT has hired 257 new employees since November 5th and is slated to hire an additional 93 employees in the next 90 days. Total new hires by the end of the year will be approximately 807. These will include 495 new bus operators, 82 bus mechanics and 47 Transit Operations Supervisors;
- Ordered 170 buses (100 full size and 70 mini buses) for 2003 delivery to support the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP);

- Held PTP Municipal Workshop in December 2002 outlining project criteria and guidance.
- Met with Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority and Tri-Rail to map action plan on development of the East-West line from FIU to Downtown Miami;
- Dedicated and opened the new Florida International University (FIU) Bus Terminal. Facility will service approximately 1230 passengers per week. FDOT provided 50% of funding;
- Opened the South Miami-Dade Busway 168 Street Park and Ride facility on December 16, 2002;
- Broke ground on the South Miami-Dade Busway, Phase II, Segment I from Southwest 211th Street to Southwest 264th Street;
- Completed the detailed service planning for the PTP improvements to be implemented in April through August 2003. A total of forty-six (46) significant service improvements will be implemented to existing bus routes including overnight service on eleven (11) routes;
- Reviewed the Earlington Heights-MIC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provided departmental comments. Authorized Development Team to complete DEIS process, including MPO action;
- Represented Miami-Dade County at public meetings with the 2020 Transit Coalition, South Florida Workforce, and the passenger outreach program and made presentations on the implementation of the PTP;
- Met with a private jitney owner to discuss the impact of the new Little Haiti Circulator on his route. Investigated the area to determine possible options to the Little Haiti Circulator alignment;
- Met with staff of South Florida Workforce (SFW) to receive information on transportation needs of their clients to prospective employment sites. Created an extensive compendium of routes and their operating characteristics serving SFW One-Step Centers throughout Miami-Dade County;
- Received fiscal year 2003 State Public Transit Block Grant from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for \$16.1 million for operating funds. Received \$345,000 from FDOT to continue operation of WAGES bus routes as part of Welfare to Work program. Received approval of flexible funding transfer from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for \$600,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds for continued operation of the Bird Road MAX;
- Executive Director met with Congressional Delegation and Staff to discuss status of North and East West Corridors, as well as the County's bus appropriations request;

- Participated in various community meetings including the Cutler Ridge Charette, the Naranja Community Advisory Community, and the Miami-Dade Transit Coalition conference. Updated members on the status of the PTP and the CITT, and received input from the community on various busway station projects;
- Completed and issued annual financial statement for the MDT;

Legislative Initiatives/Grant Applications

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES: Prepared FY 04 federal legislative and appropriations package, which included the following:

Reauthorization Request:

- North Corridor (including the Earlington Heights/Miami Intermodal Center Connector)
- East-West Corridor
- Kendall Corridor
- Northeast Corridor
- South Dade Corridor
- Douglas Road Connector

New Starts Appropriations/Legislative Language Request:

North Corridor/ East West Corridor:

Submitted Congressional Request as follows:

- \$10 million in New Starts funds each.
- Requested a "Full Funding Grant Agreement".

Bus Related Discretionary Funds Request:

- *Bus Programs:* Supported \$16 million funding request of discretionary federal bus and bus-related funds to enhance current levels of service to meet growing transportation demand, including 24-hour bus service.
- *South Florida Regional Integrated Fare Collection System:* Supported \$25 million funding request for procuring and implementing a common fare collection system that will make travel between Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties seamless, convenient and cost effective.
- *Security and Surveillance System:* Supported \$23 million funding request to enhance and install security and surveillance systems through Miami Dade Transit's (MDT) transit properties and vehicles.
- *Northwest 7th Avenue Bus Facility:* A transit hub at the intersection of NW 7th Avenue and NW 62nd Street will provide seamless access for commuters to and from the Liberty City area. (\$4 Million)

TEA21 Reauthorization:

- Support legislation that strengthens transportation funding guarantees. The Firewall and Revenue Aligned Budget Authority provisions of TEA-21 should be strengthened to ensure that all revenues in the Highway Trust Fund are spent for their intended purpose.
- Support legislation that increases funding for transportation from the Highway Trust Fund and General Fund.
- Support legislation that maximizes the return of funding to Florida; the next federal act should guarantee Florida at least a 95% rate of return on all funds distributed to the states.
- Support legislation that expands innovative financing techniques, such as leverage leases and Transportation Finance Corporations.
- Support legislation that maintains oversight of transit security issues with the federal government and prevents its transfer to the state.

STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES: Prepare FY 03 State legislative package, to include the following:

FY 03 Appropriations Request:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • North Corridor | \$10,000,000 |
| • Bus Service Enhancements | \$ 5,000,000 |
| • Downtown Bus Terminal /Flagler | \$ 2,500,000 |
| • Northeast Miami-Dade Passenger Center | \$ 2,500,000 |

FY 03 State Legislative Request:

- Supported legislation that would provide additional revenues for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program and;
- Supported any legislation that would continue to provide additional funds for the Work and Gain Economic Self Sufficiency (WAGES) program or related programs such as the Welfare-to-Work program.
- Supported the continued funding of the County's Incentive Grant Program.
- Supported legislation that would provide additional funds for the Medicaid Transportation Program and.
- Supported any legislation that would continue the Transportation Outreach Program (TOP).
- Supported language modification to Chapter 316 and Chapter 322.61 as follows:
- To comply with new federal legislation that requires state's to disqualify individuals convicted of "serious" traffic violations from being issued a Commercial Driver's License.
- To comply with new federal legislation that requires states to revoke an individual's Commercial Driver's License if convicted of "serious" traffic violations.
- Supported any amendment to Florida Statute 163.567 enabling the converting of the existing South Florida Regional Transportation Organization (RTO) to a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA); to include the renaming of the Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority as the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust

- Mailed notices to the twenty civic and business organizations appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to nominate names;
- Presented names of Nomination Committee, for Board approval, to the Board of County Commissioners at their January 23, 2003 meeting;
- Subsequent to BCC approval, scheduled and held meetings of the Nomination Committee;
- Impaneled the representatives of the twenty civic and business organizations appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to compose the Nominating Committee of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT);
- At the direction of the Nominating Committee, advertised for applicants to the (CITT). The Nominating Committee extended application deadline to April 7, 2003;
- Aired over five hundred (500) "60 second" radio spots in English, Spanish and Creole; appeared in over a dozen television and radio interview programs; placed advertisements in local English, Spanish, and Creole language newspapers;
- Received and processed one hundred and thirty-three (133) completed applications that were submitted by residents of Miami-Dade County;
- Convened the Nominating Committee on April 11, 2003 to review and select Commission District slates for representation on the CITT;
- Nominating Committee selected and forwarded the thirteen (13) Commission Districts slates to the members of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners for their consideration at the Commission meeting of April 22, 2003;
- Scheduled Nominating Committee meeting for April 24, 2003 to select CITT slates to submit to the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and address any other issues;
- Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners ratified their selections at BCC meetings of April 22, 2003, and May 6, 2003;
- CITT will convene their first meeting on May 7, 2003.

The following is a list of initiatives to be undertaken within the next 90 days by the Office of Public Transportation Management:

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

- Convene Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust;

- Meet with Miami-Dade County municipalities to negotiate Interlocal Agreements for the distribution of the one-half percent surtax;
- Submit Interlocal Agreements with local municipalities to the CITT for their approval;
- Distribute and monitor the implementation of the one-half percent surtax to municipalities;
- Produce and distribute quarterly report and audit of the expenditure of the one-half percent surtax to the CITT for their approval and subsequently to the Board of County Commissioners and the public in general;

Proposed Initiatives and Service Improvements to be implemented in next 90 days

The following is a list of initiatives to be undertaken within the next 90 days by the Office of Public Transportation Management:

North Corridor

At the behest of the North Corridor Citizens' Advisory Committee, OPTM has dropped the BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) Study and initiated the revision of an earlier Study that selected a Metrorail extension along NW 27th Avenue as the locally preferred alternative.

This earlier alternative had been dropped after the unsuccessful one-cent sales tax initiative in 1999, due to lack of local funding.

An updated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be prepared to request Federal Transit Administration (FTA) authorization to proceed into final design and engineering.

Utilities relocation and right-of-way acquisition will follow in preparation for groundbreaking, expected to occur in the next three to four years.

East-West Corridor

OPTM has requested from the E-W Corridor consulting firm a cost estimate to update an earlier study that identified a minimum-operating segment (downtown Miami to MIA to Palmetto Expressway) to continue into design and construction, and to initiate an alternatives analysis study for the westernmost segment covering the MIA to Turnpike segment.

In addition, the easternmost segment from downtown Miami to the Convention Center in Miami Beach, dubbed Baylink, is presently being considered for approval by the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Governing Board.

Planned Service Improvements

Bus and Rail

- Make service improvements to eleven routes;

- Add overnight service to eleven routes;
- Add overnight service to Metrorail;
- Add a new route – the Flagami Connection
- Open the Metrorail Extension to the Palmetto Expressway and open the Palmetto Station for revenue service;
- Begin updating the North Corridor Metrorail FEIS study;
- Obtain locally preferred alternative decision from MPO for MIC-EHT Connection;
- Begin design of the Downtown Bus Terminal project;

cc: Hon. Alex Penelas, Mayor
Hon. Barbara Carey-Shuler, PhD., Chairperson
Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Steve Shiver, County Manager
Bill Johnson, Assistant County Manager/
Transportation Manager

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Correspondence/Document Delivery Verification Sheet

CORRESPONDENCE SUBJECT MATTER: CITIZEN MEETING NOTICE FOR MAY 7, 2003

ADDRESSEE	RECEIVED BY	DATE/TIME	COMMENTS
Mayor Alex Penelas	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 @ 11:47 AM	
Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 @ 11:29 AM	
Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 - 11:30 AM	
Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson (Original)	<i>[Signature]</i>	05/05/03 11:30 AM	
Commissioner Sally A. Heyman	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:30	
Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro	<i>[Signature]</i>	05/05/03 11:30 AM	
Commissioner Rebeca Sosa	<i>[Signature]</i>	05/05/03 11:30 AM	
Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:32 AM	
Commissioner Katy Sorenson	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:32	
Commissioner Dennis C. Moss	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 @ 11:30 AM	
Senator Javier D. Souto	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:40	
Commissioner Joe A. Martinez	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:40	
Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:40	
Commissioner Natacha Seijas	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/5/03 11:40	

4/14/04 4:04 PM

As of October 15, 2002

Eric McAndrew